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SUBJECT An Interview with Admiral Turner

BRUCE MORTON: Admiral Stansfield Turner is Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He is also, because of President Carter's reorganization of the intelligence community, a Director who has somewhat more authority than his predecessors did over other intelligence agencies. Admiral Turner is here in our Washington studio this morning with correspondent Fred Graham.

Gentlemen.

FRED GRAHAM: Admiral Turner, the United States Government is preparing to sign a proposed treaty with Panama, which would turn the control of that canal over to the Panamanians by the year 2000. Has the CIA conducted a study as to the safety and advisability of this move?

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER: That primarily, Fred, is a policy question, and we don't get into policy matters. However, in something like this, it is our responsibility to look at what foreign reaction will be and whether that could be friendly or adverse. And in this case we have looked at that and find that probable reaction of the Latin American countries around Panama would be very favorable.

GRAHAM: Well, now, some of the people who oppose the treaty, though, are afraid that something might happen down the road similar to what happened to the Suez Canal; that the canal, being taken over, would then be used in a discriminatory way or misused. Hasn't the CIA looked into whether that might happen?

ADMIRAL TURNER: No, those are all hypotheses as to policy matters that might or might not happen. We are not here to speculate on those.